

Applic. No. 10/600,407

Amdt. dated December 1, 2004

Reply to Office action of July 1, 2004

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An apparatus for pressing items of clothing, comprising:

an inflatable body having partition walls and being internally subdivided into a plurality of cavities by said partition walls, said cavities including at least one indirectly inflated cavity and at least one adjacent cavity;

devices for inflating said inflatable body with air communicating with said inflatable body; and

a partition wall at least one of said partition walls separating said at least one indirectly inflated cavity from said at least one adjacent cavity and passing air therethrough counter to a flow resistance, said indirectly inflated cavity being inflated with air exclusively through said partition wall; and

said cavities having at least intermittently different air pressures when inflated by said devices.

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Claim 2 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said indirectly inflated cavity defines an air-permeable enclosure.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said partition wall is of an air-permeable material.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said partition wall is of a substantially air-impermeable material and has a valve through which air can flow.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said inflatable body has an interior;

~~said cavities have at least intermittently different air pressures when inflated by said devices;~~

a framework is disposed in said interior;

said at least one adjacent cavity defines an enclosure; and

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said enclosure is supported against said framework in an inflated state of said body.

Claim 6 (original): The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein:

said inflatable body is shirt-shaped and has sleeve sections and a trunk section with narrow sides, and defines two side cavities on said narrow sides beneath said sleeve sections, said two side cavities defining side cavity enclosures and being inflated directly;

said framework is disposed between said two side cavities;

said side cavity enclosures, in an inflated state thereof, are supported on said framework; and

said interior, outside said side cavities, is inflated with air exclusively through said partition wall to said side cavities.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein:

said inflatable body has shoulder sections; and

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said inflatable body defines further cavities in at least one of said sleeve sections and said shoulder sections, said further cavities being in substantially flow-resistance-free connection with said side cavities.

Claim 8 (original): The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising at least one direct air-supply device directing air out of said interior of said inflatable body and against a shirt fitted onto said inflatable body from outside the shirt, said side cavities being in substantially flow-resistance-free connection with said at least one direct air-supply device.

Claim 9 (original): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein:

said inflatable body has vertical axis;

said trunk section is substantially flat and defines a plane;

a means for fixing a trunk section of a shirt fitted onto said inflatable body is provided, said fixing means running parallel to said vertical axis; and

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said framework has surfaces for supporting said side cavity enclosures, a surface normal of said surfaces being inclined with respect to said plane of said trunk section.

Claim 10 (original): The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein:

said inflatable body has vertical axis;

said trunk section is substantially flat and defines a plane;

a clamping-in device runs parallel to said vertical axis and fixes a trunk section of a shirt fitted onto said inflatable body; and

said framework has surfaces for supporting said side cavity enclosures, a surface normal of said surfaces being inclined with respect to said plane of said trunk section.

Claim 11 (original): The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising air-guiding crosspieces disposed within said side cavities and at least partly dividing up regions within said side cavities to reduce air flow in said regions.

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Claim 12 (original): The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said regions divided up by said crosspieces have only one inlet opening out into an interior of said side cavities.

Claim 13 (original): The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising at least partially air-permeable wall, said regions divided up by said crosspieces being closed and separated from an interior of said side cavities by said at least partially air-permeable wall.

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said air-permeable partition wall directs air to flow with a time delay into said at least one indirectly inflated cavity.

Claim 15 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said inflatable body defines an enclosure; and

said directly inflated cavity defines an enclosure releaseably connected to said enclosure of said inflatable body.

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Claim 16 (original): The apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein said directly inflated cavity defines an enclosure  
releaseably connected to said air-permeable enclosure.

Claim 17 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein:

said inflatable body defines an enclosure;

said directly inflated cavity defines an enclosure; and

said enclosure of said directly inflated cavity is connected  
in at least one of punctiform and linear fashion to said  
enclosure of said inflatable body.

Claim 18 (original): The apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the items of clothing are shirts.